



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Economic Mobility***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of “**Economic Mobility**.” Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get Informed

- Evaluate different understandings of income inequality in this [PragerU video](#) and [this Washington Post article](#)
- Review the recommendations from Leading on Opportunity in the [“Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Report”](#)
- Read about job creation through occupational licensing reform in [this John Locke Foundation analysis](#)
- Explore this [Brookings testimony to Congress](#) about what could be done to reduce poverty and increase economic mobility in the United States
- Learn more about a federal minimum wage increase from [this NPR interview](#) and [this Wall Street Journal article](#)
- Explore the relationship between health and economic mobility in [this report from The Urban Institute](#)

Get Connected

- [Sign up to receive materials and resources](#) from the Gates Foundation’s U.S. program on education and economic mobility

- Join the [North Mecklenburg Economic Mobility Collaborative \(NMEMC\)](#)
- Connect with the [Poor People's Campaign](#)

Get Involved

- Volunteer at or support [Lula Bell's](#) Resource Center at Davidson College
- Identify and support a nonprofit or educational organization that is promoting increased economic opportunities for groups that are important to you
- Host a [Living Room Conversation](#) with your friends or in your community on economic mobility and the “opportunity gap”
- Contact your Congressional representative about past legislation related to economic mobility, such as the [American Housing and Economic Mobility Act of 2019](#) or [Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019](#)

About This Guide

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The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org.

DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email dci@deliberativecitizenship.org to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources.